

From: [Karen Mack, President, Board of Neighborhood Commissioners](#)
To: [Kent Smith](#)
Subject: News from the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2015 10:08:32 AM

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Dear Neighborhood Council Leader,

The Board of Neighborhood Commissioners is working on a number of key policy issues from the Neighborhood Council Stakeholder definition to the Code of Conduct Policy, and we want your input. Can you take a few minutes to complete this important survey and give us your input and ideas <http://empowerla.org/commission-august-survey/>

We are also accepting nominations for the 2015 EmpowerLA awards. The deadline for submission is August 1, 2015 and the awards will be announced and distributed on September 11, 2015 from 6 - 10p.m. at City Hall (please save the date). You can nominate your NC or another NC - [details can be found online](#). Get your submission in today!

Also, please calendar Saturday, September 26, 2015 from 7:45a.m. - 4:30p.m. at City Hall for the 2015 Congress of Neighborhoods - the event is free and includes breakfast and lunch, workshops on neighborhood council leadership, networking and more.

Yours,

*Karen Mack
President
Board of Neighborhood Commissioners*

Empower Yourself - Empower Your Community - Empower LA!

The Board of Neighborhood Commissioners

**Karen Mack - Central Los Angeles - Board President**

Karen is founder and Executive Director of LA Commons, an organization dedicated to promoting Los Angeles' diverse neighborhoods through locally based, interactive, artistic and cultural programming.

LA Commons has implemented community art projects, tours and classes in communities throughout LA and in partnership with organizations such as the Central American Resource Center, the South Asian Network, Thai Community Development Center and UCLA.

**Len Shaffer - South Valley - Vice President**

Since becoming a resident of the San Fernando Valley in 1971 Leonard Shaffer has volunteered in many capacities. His participation in neighborhood organizations began in 1972 when he first joined the Tarzana Property Owners Association and he has continued to be an active member of the Board of Directors.

He became interested in the idea of neighborhood councils after attending a series of conferences sponsored by the USC Public Participation Project prior to the passage of the

1999 Charter.

**Victor Medina - Harbor - Commissioner**

For over six years, Victor Medina has contributed to the Gang Alternatives Program's (GAP) vision, "To prevent young people from joining gangs." Victor is currently in the Public & Governmental Affairs Department as Community Outreach Coordinator for GAP. His responsibilities include coordinating the company's community outreach and stakeholder management activities, with a focus on maintaining essential relationships with various community leaders and businesses.

**Lydia Grant - North Valley - Commissioner**

Lydia Grant is a Board Member on the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council and has been active on land use and educational issues citywide, countywide, and even statewide as a Board Member for Parent Revolution which advocates for expansion of the Parent Trigger laws across the country.

Lydia has fought for safety issues at local schools and has worked to organize communities and to empower them with information and training on how to advocate on behalf of their children and their schools.



Eli Lipmen - West Los Angeles - Commissioner

Eli is the past President of the Palms Neighborhood Council and previously served as its Secretary. While on the board, he oversaw a neighborhood clean up and outreach program, a mural and beautification project, and the re-development of Woodbine Park in Palms.

"My experience serving on the Palms Neighborhood Council has been so empowering," said Eli, "and as a Commissioner, I want to improve engagement and effectiveness for neighborhood councils throughout the City."



Olivia Rubio - East Los Angeles - Commissioner

My fellow Angelinos, it is with deep humility that I wish to express my gratitude to our Mayor and his staff for the nomination to serve you in the capacity of Commissioner for the Board of Neighborhood Councils.

It is not long ago that I decided that the best way to serve my community was joining the neighborhood councils.



Joy Atkinson - South Los Angeles - Commissioner

Joy Atkinson is a private consultant specializing in developing and implementing community outreach programs. She served as a consultant for California Speaker Karen Bass, specializing in outreach to the African American press, the community at large, and with The Speaker's Clergy Alliance.

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